

(b) a first shifting stage [(10)] being shiftable relative to said base element [(1)], said first shifting stage, on shifting, advances said piston [(K)] in said container [(A)] resulting in said liquid medicament being dispensed from said container [(A)] in a metered manner[,]; and

(c) at least a second shifting stage [(20)] being shiftable relative to said base element [(1)] as well as relative to said first shifting stage [(10)] in said advance direction of said piston [(K)] and slaving said first shifting stage [(10)] in its shifting movement in the advance direction of said piston [(K)],

(d) said first and said second shifting stages [(10, 20)], when seen in said advance direction of said piston [(K)], overlap at least in part,

[characterized in that] wherein said propelling device and said container [(A)] are accommodated and fixed in place in the [common] housing [(1; G)], that said piston [(K)] is held in said container [(A)] and said first shifting stage [(10)] is connected to said piston [(K)] only by exerting contact pressure on said piston [(K)].

2. (Amended) The propelling device [as set forth in] of claim 1, characterized in that said first and said second shifting stages [(10, 20), intermeshing] are operably connected by a male thread [(15)] and a female thread [(25)], forming a first spindle drive, the rotational movement of which causes said first shifting stage [(10)] to shift.

3. (Amended) The propelling device [as set forth in the preceding claim] of claim 2,
[characterized in that] wherein said second shifting stage [(20)] shifts as the driven member of a second spindle drive [(20, 30; 20, 6)].

4. (Amended) The propelling device [as set forth in the preceding claim] of claim 3, [characterized in that] wherein said second shifting stage [(20) may be both] is movably slaved [in rotation and shifted] by a drive member [(30)] of said second spindle drive [(20, 30)].

5. (Amended) The propelling device [as set forth in the preceding claim] of claim 4, [characterized in that a] wherein the thread [(26)] of said second shifting stage [(20) with which said second shifting stage engages said drive member (30) of said second spindle drive (20, 30)] and the thread [(15)] of said first shifting stage [(10)] have the same hand.

6. (Amended) The propelling device [as set forth in] of claim 3, [characterized in that] wherein said second shifting stage [(20)] is rotary driven and forms, together with a reaction member [(6)] which is non-rotatable relative to said base element [(1 ; G)], said second spindle drive [(20, 6)].

7. (Amended) The propelling device [as set forth in] of claim 3, [characterized in that] wherein said first shifting stage [(10)] is rotary driven and forms, together with said second shifting stage [(20)] which is non-rotatable relative to said base element [(1 ; G)], said first spindle drive.

8. (Amended) The propelling device [as set forth in any of the claims 3 to 7] of claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein the axis of rotation of said two spindle drives are in alignment.

9. (Amended) The propelling device [as set forth in any of the claims 1 to 7] of claim 2, [characterized in that] wherein said first shifting stage [(10)] and a shifting axis of said second shifting stage [(20)] are [spaced away] parallel to each other.

10. (Amended) The propelling device [as set forth in] of claim 3, [characterized in that] wherein said first shifting stage [(10)] is rotationally driven by said drive member [(30)] of said second spindle drive [(20, 30)] via a spur gear unit [(38a, 38b, 38c)].

11. (Amended) The propelling device [as set forth in one or several of the preceding claims] of claim 10, [characterized in that] wherein one of [either] said first shifting stage [(10) or] and said second shifting stage [(20)] is prevented from rotating relative to said base element [(1 : G)] by an anti-rotation lock [(40; 40a)].

12. (Amended) The propelling device [as set forth in the preceding claim characterized in that] of claim 11, wherein said anti-rotation lock is formed by a slipper [(40),] having at least one sliding surface area relative to said base element [(1 : G)] and at least one sliding surface area relative to said first shifting stage [(10)], said sliding surface areas permitting shifting and preventing a rotation of said first shifting stage [(10)] relative to said base element [(1 : G)].

13. (Amended) The propelling device [as set forth in the preceding claim] of claim 12, [characterized in that] wherein said slipper [(40)] is jointly shifted together with said second shifting stage [(20)].

14. (Amended) The propelling device [as set forth in any of the claims 11 to] of claim 13, c[characterized in that] wherein said anti-rotation lock [(40)] comprises a sleeve body [(43)] substantially surrounding [components of] said propelling device [, thereby protecting them from dirt].

15. (Amended) A portable medicament administrating device comprising at least:

- (a) a housing [(1 : G)];
- (b) a reservoir [(A)] for a liquid medicament to be administered;
- (c) a piston [(K)] which, by advancing, dispenses in a metered manner said liquid medicament to be administered from said reservoir [(A)]; and

(d) a propelling device [(10, 20) as set forth in at least one of the preceding claims] for advancing said piston [(K)].

Please add claims 16-20 as follows:

16. An apparatus for administering a substance, comprising a housing, a piston, a container and a propelling device, the propelling device comprising:

a base element;

a first shifting stage shiftable relative to said base element; and

a second shifting stage shiftable relative to said base element and to said first shifting stage and slaving said first shifting stage, wherein said propelling device and the container and piston are operably coupled to the housing and a portion of said first shifting stage is in contact with the piston.

17. The apparatus according to claim 16, wherein said first and said second shifting stages are operably coupled by respective complementary threaded portions to form a first spindle drive, the rotational movement of which causes said first shifting stage to shift.

18. The apparatus according to claim 17, further comprising a second spindle drive, wherein said second shifting stage shifts as the driven member of the second spindle drive.

19. The apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said second shifting stage is substantially slaved in both rotation and shift by a drive member of said second spindle drive.

20. The apparatus according to claim 19, wherein said first and second shifting stages overlap in part.